

May the Lord grow Spring flowers in the Garden of your Heart, and also in your earthly garden, if you have one!

A blessed Mother's Day for all of you who are mother to somebody, even though you might not have given birth and, of course, to all the families where the Mother is honored by her children! God's special blessing upon all of you!

The months fly by as fast as ever for us on the Big Island – and the Holy Spirit is teaching us a lot. I pray that the same is happening to you, beloved family and friends, for I believe we are going right now through some very special preparation times, brought on by God Himself.

Folks, it is not hard to see that this earth is entering slowly but surely into another Biblical time as it was in the times of Noah, where *“the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”* (see Genesis 6:5)

However, there is another outcome to our present episode of earth's history, although the ripening of evil and hell's intent to win a lost conflict is always the same. Between the times of Noah and our present end times stands a cross and even our secular calendar accepts a dividing point: Before Christ (BC), and Anno Domini (AD) – or After Christ (AC)!

When your and my Savior hung on that cross and called in a loud voice, **“It is finished!”** and He died for you and me, the conflict between good and evil was finished. When Jesus Christ rose and had paid the penalty for every sin of the human race, the victory was completed. Christ is so willing to share His triumph over death and hell with us who follow Him and are now part of God's family forevermore! The present time is God's final clean-up after that battle between Christ and Satan. The war is already won and we are on the winning side!

I praise God that our Salvation is totally paid for by God's only Son. We go to heaven because we accepted His gift of Redemption. Please, look at John 3:16 and see that our eternal life is **only** based on two things. We believe in our heart and confess with our mouth. (Romans 10:9) We **never** earn heaven!

However, my beloved fellow citizens of God's Kingdom, I **know** that Salvation is free but our life as an adopted child of God on this earth will make a difference beyond our sure gift of going to heaven! What we do and how we live as God's ambassadors for our coming King of kings right now while on this turbulent planet earth does count! It will decide our eternal position after we enter Christ's presence.

Our heavenly Father gladly welcomes every spiritual baby born into His family, but He has bigger plans and a higher purpose for each one of us. He not only wants us to develop and mature and reflect Christ's image more and more to a lost world, but we also must be willing to accept the authority over darkness that Christ is offering to **all** of us. It takes courage! We learn and mature. Many Christians love to remain babes in Christ - and end up with arrested development in spiritual growth.

Love never forces; our freedom of choice decides how fast and how appropriately we mature for service on this earth and also for the reward and position that awaits us. We “earn” what the Trinity has prepared for us by our obedience and willingness to build God's Kingdom on this earth! God honors those who honor Him! (1 Samuel 2:30)

Not everybody has the same calling. As the darkness gets deeper around the globe, the light **will** shine brighter. Whether you believe it or not, if you care about it or not, Christians are watched by the world, so our daily life is our greatest witness! This **little light** of mine, let it shine!

Right now, I am seeing a hunger here in America and around the world. People have a great need for words of hope, and for truth, while hell poisons and deceives every home through the media and the internet. Folks, we are not called to enter political battles; we must share love and tell the world that there is only **one** solution:

The Good News through Jesus Christ. His love is real - and in the third world often very practical. We must first give the listeners some physical food and clothing **with** our words of hope. A child with a hungry stomach cannot comprehend that Jesus loves the children of the world. They need soup and bread first – and after that they are able to listen!

I want to thank you that you are our partners in our children's work overseas. Did you ever think that your sharing of bread to feed the hunger of a lost world will someday come back to you as a heavenly reward? (See Ecclesiastes 11:1)

What a joy it will be for all of us to hear the Lord's voice welcoming us by saying,

"Well done, you good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter into the joy of your Lord." Matthew 25:21

Joyfully in His arms,

Grandma Hansi

Aloha, Family and Fellow Pilgrims! Happy Springtime – and Happy Mother's Day!

As I pondered this yearly celebration of blessing Mothers – and a way of keeping the Fifth Commandment – I found myself asking:

What makes a "great" mother? Sacrifice? Months in a hospital bed, praying your unborn child will survive the numerous intrauterine surgeries performed to prevent the "Angel of Death" from taking her before she has had the chance to live? Years of subsisting on a pittance so you can be the one to raise her during those formative years, instead of paying a babysitter to do it for you? Doing all the motherly things we do: nurse, teacher, cook, cheerleader, clown (yes!), maid, taxi driver, florist, etc.?

Or, is it the grown-up that we examine that determines our success or failure? What if we have done all those things, to the best of our abilities, and that child is now making life choices that are antithetical to the "*Raise up your child in the way they should go...*" directive of Proverbs 22:6?

What if a mother was never around long enough to instruct her child? What if she left when you were six years old, and you only saw her for a total of three weeks over the next 16 years, and only sporadically after that? Do we celebrate mothers merely because they gave birth, and everything after that is just a matter of chance? As parents, mothers and fathers, we eventually understand that we are not creating robots when we raise our children. And that's a good thing. An honest look at ourselves should make that perfectly clear - and we heave a sigh of relief.

Ultimately, as believers in Jesus, we pray **without ceasing**. We ask God for direction. We trust Him to make the paths straight, with His Word as our light along the way...for ourselves AND for our children. AND, we **thank Him** for hearing us. The rest is up to Him. We walk by faith and not by sight, believing that God loves our children even MORE than we do! And that is what can settle our anxious hearts. (See Philippians 4:6,7)

I join with Grandma Hansi in thanking you for your prayers and faithful support. We have been presented with a "God-given" opportunity to expand our ministry help to our "relatives" in Ukraine. Here is an excerpt from a letter we received:

"...Well, we have got "help" from Grandma Hansi. Many, many thanks! Our Child Care Center is working. We are thinking now about the summer programs. We see God's blessings in every moment. Recently, one official man from the City Council visited the Center. He seems to be very good to us. We asked him to help us to get the permission from the City Council to run the summer camp. He said "ok", then he called to somebody and said to us: "They offer you the central park of the city for your camp". It shocked us a little bit. We didn't expect such a big opportunity! But if God opens door what can we say? "Yes, Lord!" (Grandma Hansi's words) God prompt us to be brave! Please, keep us in your prayers! We pray for you too. We love you and [are]so thankful to God for our Hawaiian relatives! God bless you, T."

"And now may the LORD show lovingkindness and truth unto you" (2 Samuel 2:6) and keep you strong in Him.

Jessie